

What Does It Look Like ?

A large, deciduous (dee-sid-you-us)* tree growing up to 20-40m tall. As it grows, it forms a broad, spreading crown with sturdy branches.



*lose their leaves in winter

Leaves grow in small bunches. Each one is around 10cm long with 4-5 deep lobes and smooth edges.

Long, yellow hanging catkins distribute pollen into the air.

Acorns are 2-3cm long. They sit at the end of long stalks in little cups called cupules.



Oak Apples...
Little brown balls (not part of the tree) are made by an insect called the gall wasp.

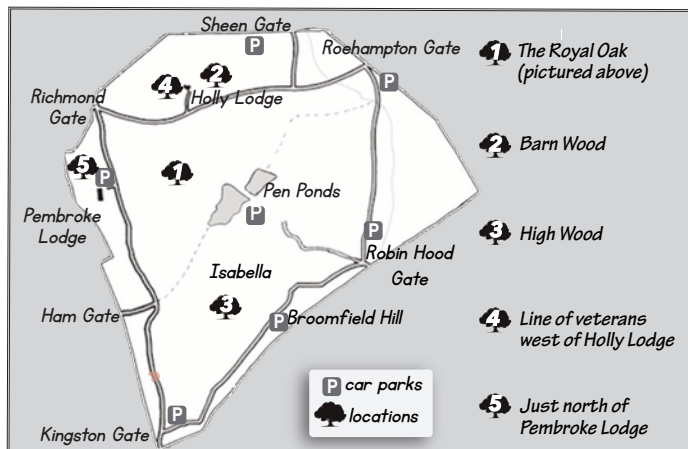


If you are walking with your dogs, keep them away from the acorns as they will be ill if they eat them.

Where Is It In The Park?

All over the place!

Below are locations of some of the older oaks.



The Tree of the Month is produced by the Friends of Richmond Park
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Tree of the Month July



English Oak

English Oak trees can live for many hundreds of years and they hold a special place in our culture and history. Richmond Park is one of the best places to see ancient and veteran oaks, including one that has become known as The Royal Oak – a drawing of this is our emblem for 2020 The Year of the Tree.

Many of the Park's ancient oaks are pollards, which means they were cut above head height to harvest the branches for wood. This has helped them to live longer as they are smaller and less likely to blow over in strong winds.



Threats

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

Many oaks in the Park are infected by OPM. The caterpillars damage the foliage, leaving the tree open to attack from disease. They are also a risk to human health, causing itching and respiratory problems.



If you see an oak with a yellow tag on its trunk – steer clear!



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History & Use

- Throughout the centuries people worshipped oak trees, associating them with their mythological gods.
- From ancient times onwards, oak frames were used for house-building.
- Vikings built their ships using oak, as did the Royal Navy until the mid-19th century.
- In 1651, the future King Charles II hid in an oak tree when he was escaping from Cromwell's Roundheads.

98-99-100! OK.
Coming Ready or not!



- Strong and long-lasting, oak is used in making many products...
 - Elegant furniture – kitchen units
 - flooring materials – cosmetics – barrels

Great for Wildlife



Old oaks are hosts to hundreds of species of insects and provide food and shelter to lots of larger creatures.

Caterpillars prefer the buds from the flowers and leaves.

Bats and birds roost in holes and crevices under loose bark, as well as feeding on the rich supply of insects in the canopy.

In autumn, mammals including mice, squirrels, badgers and, of course deer, feed on acorns.

The leaves break down easily and form a rich mould beneath the tree where fungi thrive.

In turn, fungi rot the wood in old trees. A slap-up meal for beetles!

This is another reason why the Park is so special for nature.

